

recreationists), and that environmental and water quality standards must remain high in the face of development pressure.

Shortly after the public hearings, a resolution was passed by the Carteret County Economic Development Council and conveyed to the Committee. The resolution urged that the Committee recommend in its final report to the General Assembly, the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission and the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission that “regulatory issues which could potentially reduce the diversity of uses along the coastal shoreline of North Carolina and reduce access to coastal public trust waters of the state be addressed.” The term “regulatory issues” noted in the resolution most clearly referred to Session Law 2006-246, Senate Bill 1566, which was approved by the General Assembly “to provide for the implementation of Federal Phase II Stormwater Management Requirements and to protect water quality as recommended by the Environmental Review Commission.”

In February 2007, the Carteret County Board of Commissioners passed and conveyed to the Committee a similar resolution regarding concern over Phase II Stormwater Management rules and the possible “unintended and negative consequences to the diversity of uses along the coastal shoreline of Carteret County and reduce public access to the coastal public trust waters of the state.” The Commissioners urged the WASC to recommend in its final report that “existing and new regulatory issues which potentially reduce the diversity of uses along the ... shoreline and reduce access to the coastal public trust waters of the state be addressed so as to lessen the negative impact of existing and proposed regulation.” This was followed by a third similar resolution from the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce, also conveyed to the Committee in February 2007.

In response to the resolutions noted above and to the several statements made by speakers at the public comment meetings, the Committee engaged in a discussion of the matter at the Feb. 27, 2007, Committee business meeting held at the N.C. Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. The transcript of that discussion can be viewed at:

[http://www.ncseagrant.org/files/wasc\\_feb27\\_transcript.txt](http://www.ncseagrant.org/files/wasc_feb27_transcript.txt).

The Committee believes that compromising the standards determined by the State of North Carolina to be protective of the environmental/water quality of coastal public trust waters should not be an option or means to help resolve the working waterfront or public access issue. At the same time, the Committee felt that it was imperative that such standards and attendant regulations be clearly promulgated and articulated, and also consistently applied and enforced by regulating agencies.

The Committee believes that the costs of purchasing land (or easements or development rights to land) and developing (or re-developing) working waterfront and public access uses and facilities close to the shore in the future will not be trivial. The price tag will most assuredly reflect the private or public investments required to ensure that development is compliant with environmental and water quality rules and regulations promulgated by the federal government and/or the people of the State of North Carolina via the General Assembly. The Committee understands that customary (standardized) and innovative (e.g., such as low-impact, or “green”) engineering solutions to limit impervious surface area and consequent runoff at waterfront development sites will need to be applied, and that any engineering application to meet environmental/water quality regulations will carry costs, as determined on a case-by-case basis, for design, site work and installation.